Entry of Public Sector Banks in Capital Market

†200. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an apprehension of common customers losing their capital because of the entry of public sector banks in the capital market; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to save the common customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Government is not aware of any such apprehension of common customers;

(b) Does not arise.

Loan for the development of Agriculture

†201. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of loans provided by the nationalized banks, private banks and foreign banks during the last three years for the development of agriculture and small scale industries, State-wise and bank-wise;

(b) the percentage of loan out of the total loan disbursed by these banks to agriculture and small scale industries during the said period; and

(c) the details of the norms set by these banks for grant of loan to the agriculture and small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be placed on the Table of the House.

Withdrawal of Pension Plan for Senior Citizens

202. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that after having announced the pension plan for senior citizens on the 17th June, 2003 in all prominent national dailies, Government hastily retreated and withdrew it the very next day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the scheme has been abandoned finally; and

(d) if not, by when the same is likely to be announced and formally put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana, a pension plan for senior citizens, has been launched all over India on 14th July, 2003.

Subsidy on Kerosene and LPG

†203. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference of opinion between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Finance on the issue of the period of granting subsidy on kerosene and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it has been resolved or by when it is likely to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The scheme for subsidy on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene has already been notified on 28th January, 2003 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been advised to phase out the scheme over a period of three years from 2002-03.

Medium term fiscal revamp policy for States

†204. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*